

---

# JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Morning Alert - Wednesday, November 16, 2016

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact [TokyoMATT@state.gov](mailto:TokyoMATT@state.gov).

Please fill out our short online [Readership Survey!](#)

## HEADLINES

### Morning news

NHK gave top play to a report that a week has passed since Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election, saying that anti-Trump demonstrations are still being held in many parts of the country. TBS also reported on "Trump shock" in Hollywood and elsewhere in the U.S. Other top news included reports on the victory of the Japanese men's national soccer team against Saudi Arabia in a World Cup qualifier on Tuesday.

Top stories in national dailies included the cabinet approval of the SDF's "rush to the rescue" operations in South Sudan (Asahi, Mainichi, Yomiuri); a plan by 50 Japanese firms to cooperate in developing new drugs using artificial intelligence (Nikkei); and Trump



diplomacy (Sankei).

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Abe to leave for New York tomorrow for meeting with Trump**

NHK reported this morning that PM Abe will leave for New York tomorrow for his first meeting with President-elect Trump. An NHK reporter said while the GOJ had been concerned about Trump's extreme remarks in the past, his appointment of Reince Priebus as White House chief of staff is a relief since it demonstrates Trump's stance to lead a stable government by working closely with mainstream Republicans. The reporter said while the GOJ will keep a close eye on Trump's appointment of key officials, it is hopeful that Trump will eventually adopt the conventional Republican stance of attaching importance to U.S. allies and free trade. She added, however, that since the GOJ is worried that the issue of Japan's share of the cost of stationing the U.S. forces in Japan may come up, PM Abe will not only try to build a relationship of trust with the President-elect but also with members of Congress in order to maintain stable U.S.-Japan relations.

### **Senior LDP official expresses expectations for President-elect Trump**

Mainichi wrote that LDP General Council Chairman Hosoda commented on President-elect Trump during a speech in Toyama on Tuesday by saying: "Mr. Trump seems to be very tough toward Japan. But as far as I know, no U.S. president has been friendly toward Japan from the beginning. President Reagan was critical of Japan in the beginning, but he later developed a friendship with Prime Minister Nakasone."

### **Concern that Russian economic minister's detention may impact Japan-Russia talks**

All papers reported on the Russian Investigative Committee's detention on Monday of Economic Development Minister Ulyukayev on suspicion of receiving a \$2 million bribe. Ulyukayev will now be unable to attend a planned meeting with METI Minister Seko on the sidelines of the APEC meeting in Peru this week to discuss the details of Japan's economic cooperation with Russia. Although Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga stated at a news briefing that he does not believe the detention of Ulyukayev will affect Japan's talks with Russia, the papers wrote that Tokyo is concerned that the development will affect future talks with Moscow.

### **Japan, Russia discuss economic and other cooperation**

Yomiuri front-paged a report on a meeting of the Japan-Russia Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Issues held in Tokyo on Tuesday, during which the two nations agreed to accelerate discussions on reaching more than 10 agreements on medical cooperation and people-to-people exchange ahead of the planned talks between Prime Minister Abe and President Putin on Dec. 15 in Japan. Foreign Minister Kishida, METI Minister Seko, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister

Shuvalov, and Far East Development Minister Galushka participated in the meeting and discussed the eight-point economic cooperation plan proposed by Japan. Kishida stated that Japan hopes to develop relations with Russia in a wide range of areas and accomplish things ahead of President Putin's visit to Japan.

## **SECURITY**

### **Cabinet agrees to allow SDF to conduct “rush to the rescue” operations in South Sudan**

Most papers gave top play to reports on the Abe cabinet's decision on Tuesday to allow GSDF troops on a PKO mission in South Sudan to conduct “rush to the rescue” operations. The papers expressed different opinions on the decision. Asahi expressed clear opposition in an editorial, arguing that assigning the new duties to the SDF is unacceptable because South Sudan is in a state of civil war and Japan should make additional efforts to provide humanitarian assistance. Tokyo Shimbun argued that the operations are “dangerous” and could lead to Japan's use of force overseas, which is banned under the Constitution. Mainichi argued in an editorial that the decision to actually conduct “rush to the rescue” operations should be made very carefully, urging the GOJ to closely monitor the security situation in South Sudan. Yomiuri commented that the GOJ's decision is significant because it will allow Japan to fulfill its international responsibilities more actively.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Abe warns TPP impasse would shift focus to RCEP**

Most papers reported on remarks made by Prime Minister Abe at a meeting of the Upper House Special Committee on the TPP, during which he said that there will be a shift of focus to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) if the TPP agreement fails to enter into force and that China would be the country with the largest GDP among the RCEP members because the U.S. is not included in the group. Abe stressed the significance of the TPP by questioning whether intellectual property will be protected as thoroughly under RCEP as the TPP. Nikkei wrote that it has become necessary for Japan to review its strategy toward the TPP following the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president. There is strong concern in Japan as to whether alternatives such as the TPP agreement's effectuation without the U.S. or other multilateral trade pacts would help Japan's economic growth.

### **GOJ plans to test automated driving systems on public roads**

Asahi wrote that the Cabinet Office announced on Tuesday that the GOJ will start allowing major automakers, including Toyota, Honda, and Nissan, to test their automated driving systems on public roads starting in the fall of 2017. The project will use highways in the Tokyo metropolitan area and those extending from Tokyo for a total length of 300 km.

## SCIENCE

### USG official underscores continued efforts on climate change

Tuesday evening's Nikkei wrote that Special Envoy for Climate Change Pershing, who is participating in the COP 22 in Marrakesh, told reporters on Monday that global efforts to counter climate change will continue regardless of who heads the U.S. administration. Mainichi ran a similar Kyodo story saying that there is concern that a possible change in U.S. policy would have a negative impact on other nations' handling of the Paris Agreement because the U.S. played a key role in effectuating the accord.

---

